

2006 Annual Report (Jan 1, 2006 to Dec 31, 2006)

Clallam Conservation District



Washington Conservation Districts
assisting land managers with their
conservation choices

Featured Natural Resource Accomplishment of the Year

Clallam-Cline-Dungeness Water Conservation Project **Dungeness Valley, Clallam County**

Resource Challenge:

Improve the efficiency of the Clallam Ditch Company, Cline Irrigation District and Dungeness Irrigation Group irrigation water conveyance systems by replacing separate open ditches with shared pipelines. Eliminate conveyance losses and tailwater, thus increase instream flows in the Dungeness River and improve habitat for *Threatened* salmonid species.

Project Summary:

Piping started in the summer of 2006. Over half the project was complete by the end of 2006. Piping of all main canals and most of the laterals is scheduled to be complete by spring 2007. Clallam Conservation District is administering five separate grants for this project with a sixth grant proposal awaiting an award decision.

Results and Accomplishments:

One diversion structure is shared by three irrigation entities at river mile 8.0 on the Dungeness River. About 3/4 of a mile downstream the canal splits three ways. The Clallam Ditch Company and Cline Irrigation District main canals, which cross one another four times, are being replaced with a single pipeline. In addition, all of the remaining open laterals of the Clallam and Cline systems will be replaced with buried pipelines. In total, approximately 17 miles of open ditch will be replaced with about 16 miles of pipeline. Total estimated water savings of 1,830 acre feet per year (6 cubic feet per second) are anticipated. These water savings will translate directly into increased flows in the Dungeness River, a particular benefit to river habitat during late summer and drought years. In addition this project will eliminate all tailwater flows and associated water pollution.

Innovation / Highlight:

Project combines infrastructure of private irrigation companies and a public irrigation district to create first fully piped irrigation system in valley.



Bruch & Bruch Construction installing irrigation pipeline

Key Partners Involved:

Clallam Ditch Company
Cline Irrigation District
Dungeness Irrigation Group
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe/EPA
Washington Conservation Commission
Washington Department of Ecology
Salmon Recovery Funding Board/IAC
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

For More Information Contact:

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Clallam Conservation District Board of Supervisors:

Joe Murray, Ben Smith, Nash Huber,
Bob Forde, Don Hatler

Legislative Districts:

State Legislative District # 24
Congressional District # 6

Total Estimated Cost of Project:

\$5,000,000
State share: \$4,400,000
Federal share: \$260,000

Annual Natural Resources Status Report

Clallam Conservation District

Background Summary of the Clallam Conservation District

Clallam Conservation District has been helping land users conserve natural resources in Clallam County since 1959. The District consists of 437,602 acres of privately owned land and 675,358 acres of publicly managed land, totaling 1,112,960 acres along the North Olympic Peninsula. Olympic National Park and Olympic National Forest comprise the majority of the publicly managed land. Over 80% of the population is located in the area around Port Angeles and east. The west end of the District is temperate rain forest receiving 100-140 inches of annual rainfall, while the east end of the District is in the rain shadow receiving less than 20 inches. Forestland is the dominant land use. Agriculture is primarily in the east end of the District where irrigation is necessary for production.

Mission:

To advance the conservation of the renewable natural resources of Clallam County by assisting land users with the planning and implementation of conservation practices.

Natural Resource Priorities and Goals:

Surface and Groundwater

- Provide assistance to 20 farm operations annually
- Provide stormwater management and Low Impact Development assistance to 10 landowners annually
- Assist Irrigation Water Users Association with implementation of water conservation plan

Fish & Wildlife Habitat

- Correct barriers to fish passage
- Restore riparian habitat to 1 mile of stream annually
- Provide natural landscaping technical assistance to 30 land users annually

Agricultural & Forest Lands

- Help develop and implement programs that protect farm and forest lands
- Assist small acreage forestland managers develop and implement forest stewardship plans

Information – Education Priorities and Goals:

- Establish conservation education programs with schools throughout county
- Develop and implement effective outreach program

Critical Geographic Areas:

- City of Port Angeles – due to combined sewer overflows.

- Clean Water District and Dungeness Bay – due to rapid development, critical aquifer recharge area, dependence on wells and on-site septic systems, limited water availability, listed salmon stocks, bacterial contamination.



Inspecting irrigation ditch piping with Representative Van De Wege

Natural Resources Information & Status

Farms and Farmland

- 1,252 farms inventoried in District in 2006 – 125 identified as medium/high likelihood of impacting water quality
- 727 farms inventoried in Clean Water District – 46 identified as medium/high likelihood of impacting water quality

Forestland

- 307,153 acres of Open Space Timber/ Designated Forestland – minimal assistance available from DNR for conservation plan development and implementation

Fish Habitat

- 75.7 miles of CREP-eligible streams. To date – 5.2 miles restored through CREP
- 3 barriers to fish passage corrected in 2006. No data available on barriers needing correction

Urban

- 27,270 acres in cities and urban growth areas.
- City of Port Angeles combined sewer overflows – four discharge outfalls, 30-110 discharge events annually

Water Resources

- Targeted Dungeness River irrigation water withdrawal reduction = 33-40 cfs
- To date – 8.5 cfs saved through Conservation District sponsored projects